



**Testimony of Lori J. Pelletier, President Connecticut AFL-CIO  
Before the Labor and Public Employees Committee  
March 8th, 2016**

Senator Gomes and Representative Tercyak and members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee, on behalf of the over 200,000 union members and their families in our great state we present written testimony on:

**SB 221 AN ACT CONCERNING PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE**

We, at the Connecticut AFL-CIO strongly believe workers need and deserve to be able to take a paid day off in the event of being sick. It is a fundamental right of a fair and just society and is good business practice.

We also believe paid sick days should come from a worker's collective bargaining agreement and that all workers should have such an agreement that provides them fundamental quality of life benefits. Unfortunately, in America today, the deck is so stacked against worker's trying to join a union that we find ourselves coming to the legislature seeking enactment of a law to provide these benefits.

We look forward to the day when all Connecticut workers have the right to form a union and when benefits such as this will not have to be legislated but instead will be negotiated as part of a collective bargaining agreement. We applaud the work of the PCSW Family Medical Leave Insurance Task force for their time and effort creating recommendations and report regarding this most important issue.

As always, I thank you for holding this public hearing.

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